

ANA recruiting station opens in Kabul

Story by Staff Sgt. Cynthia A. Hernandez
211th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

KABUL, Afghanistan — Kabul opened its first National Army Volunteer Center on Friday continuing the building process of the Afghan National Army (ANA). This is the first of two recruiting stations slated to open in Kabul and the third of more than five scheduled to open nationwide by the end of the year.

“This opening of the new recruiting station here in Kabul is another chapter in the great story of the Afghan National Army,” said Brig. Gen. Joe F. Prasek, the Office of Military Cooperation Afghanistan chief. “I

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Photo by Spc. Wes Landrum

Hometown greetings...

Sen. Craig Thomas, (R) Wyoming, talks with soldiers from the state of Wyoming Wednesday morning on the patio behind the Administration Building here. Thomas, along with other U.S. representatives, is on a tour of bases in the Southwest Asia Theater.

10th Mountain Division to field new shotguns

Story by Pfc. Brian Trapp
Fort Benning Bayonet

FORT BENNING, Ga. — Dismounted Battlespace Battle Lab’s lightweight shotgun system is undergoing operational inspection and test firing for 200 shotguns to be fielded to the 10th Mountain Division for future use in Afghanistan.

The 10th Mtn. Div. will field the lightest variation of the 12-gauge shotgun system, which attaches under the M-4 carbine and weighs 2 pounds, 11 ounces — less than the M-203 grenade launcher.

The system is a five-round, box-magazine-

fed, manually operated shotgun. It uses a straight push-pull type bolt action that can be switched for either left or right-handed users. The attachment variation is 16.5 inches in length and uses the host weapon’s sights. It is capable of firing lethal, non-lethal and breaching rounds.

The shotgun stand-alone version is converted from the attachable version. It has a pistol grip and a butt stock. The stand-alone weighs 4 pounds, 3 ounces and is 24 inches long, collapsed.

This version also has a reversible charging handle and is capable of firing lethal, non-lethal and breaching rounds.

The original system was a prototype for

proof of concept, said Mike Barnes, chief, Robotics Division, DBBL. The one being fielded applied lessons learned from the first iterations of testing to make them more reliable in the field.

“We have identified a couple of areas for minor changes that we are doing on site,” said Mike Kennedy, project officer, DBBL. “In the future, from what we’ve found here, the designer can make these changes in manufacturing to make it an overall better shotgun.”

The minor adjustments included polishing some of the parts to reduce friction.

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World News (Compiled from CNN.com)



Shiite Muslims protest in Baghdad on Wednesday, demanding the release of a cleric who was arrested for allegedly storing weapons.

At least 2,000 Shiites protest cleric's arrest Wednesday

BAGHDAD, Iraq—More than 2,000 Shiite Muslims continued their protest, marching to the U.S.-led administration headquarters Wednesday where they demanded the release of a Shiite cleric who was arrested the day before for storing weapons.

Imam Mu'ayyad Al Khazraji and his assistant, Abdel Jalil Wakiya, also known as Dr. Jalil, were arrested Monday for having assault rifles, grenades and ammunition at a holy site, said a spokesman with the Army's 82nd Airborne Division.

Iraqi police found four AK-47s, four grenades, ammunition and gas masks, according to coalition authorities. The clerics also were arrested for calling on Iraqis to oppose the U.S.-led occupation, *Reuters* reported.

Coalition officials invited protesters into its complex for talks aimed at easing the tension. The Shiite protesters lay in the road, shouted slogans and refused to move.

Al Khazraji is being held on charges of possible murder, conspiracy to commit murder, kidnapping, false imprisonment, harboring terrorists, soliciting weapons for delivery to terrorists and organizing illegal demonstrations, authorities said. An investigation is pending.

An attorney for the 82nd told *CNN* that witnesses support the counts.

Worshippers at the mosque told *CNN* that after the imam was arrested Monday

night, they saw U.S. soldiers enter the mosque to "plant" bombs, grenades and pistols. They then photographed the cache, the witnesses said.

There was no immediate response from the Army or Iraqi police on the allegations, but the U.S. military said all the arrests were made outside the mosque, and that no U.S. soldiers went inside.



National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice and Vice President Dick Cheney are taking part in the administration's effort to spread its message on Iraq.

White House trying new public relations approach on Iraq

WASHINGTON—National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice opened a new White House campaign Wednesday to rebut critics of the Iraq war.

In a speech to the Council on Foreign Relations in Chicago, Rice restated many of the Bush administration's arguments that deposed Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein posed a threat to the region and could have supplied weapons of mass destruction to terrorists.

"This was an international outlaw who had been allowed to remain too long, and when you let a threat fester you eventually pay a price for it," Rice said. "You either have an option of dealing with it now or dealing with it later, and this president decided to deal with it now."

Though no banned weapons have been found in Iraq since Saddam's ouster in April, Rice said U.S.-led inspectors have found extensive evidence that his government was trying to conceal continued efforts to develop them from U.N. weapons inspectors before the war.

More than 100,000 U.S. troops are now leading the occupation of Iraq, which President Bush now calls the "central front" of the war on terrorism that began with the September 11, 2001, attacks on New York and Washington.

Though no evidence links Iraq to those attacks, Rice said Saddam could one day have provided chemical or biological weapons "to mount a future attack beyond the scale of 9/11 — and that terrible prospect could not be put aside."



Schwarzenegger and wife Maria Shriver greet supporters Tuesday after winning election.

Schwarzenegger to announce transition team Thursday

LOS ANGELES—Arnold Schwarzenegger told reporters at his first news conference as California governor-elect Wednesday that the members of his full transition team will be announced Thursday.

U.S. Rep. David Dreier, named head of the transition team earlier in the day, will make the announcement.

Schwarzenegger, 56, answered a wide range of questions, from where he will live to which spending cuts to repair the state's troubled budget Californians should expect.

Schwarzenegger told the large crowd of journalists that he's still researching many issues, including the budget. He said he will order a complete audit of California's budget to "go line-by-line" looking for waste.

"We don't really know what the current operating deficit it is," Schwarzenegger said. He explained that estimates of the budget's deficit have ranged during the campaign from \$6 billion to \$10 billion.

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"When this system is fielded, we will know every shotgun is in good working order," he said. "They will be ready to go into the hands of soldiers for operational use."

When the testing is finished, about 15,000 rounds will be fired through the 200 systems going to the field.

"Out of 200 weapons, I've fired about 50 of them and I'm confident in the system," said Staff Sgt. William Partin, instructor, Light Fighter School, 10th Mtn. Div., Fort Drum, N.Y.

"I think it's a great weapon system, being able to attach to the M-4 and as a stand-alone," he said. "I like that it's light. This is the lightest weapon I've carried in the Army besides a pistol. It weighs just about nothing."

Soldiers can use the shotgun as an all-around tool in an urban environment, Barnes said. They can use the non-lethal and breaching capabilities, and the big advantage is that they don't have to sling their primary weapon to do it.

"Think about what's going on in the world right now," said Staff Sgt. Tito Zelada, instructor, Light Fighter School, 10th Mtn. Div.

"You have combatants and noncombatants together in a crowd and (the non-lethal capability) is a good way to neutralize them, whether or not they are armed."

"Numerous units in the field expressed the need for a tool like this," Barnes said. "I think it will get a lot of use."

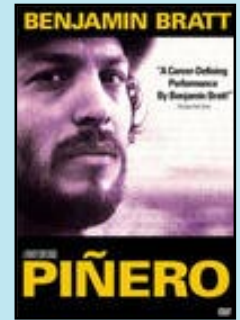
"I thought the I thought the Remington 870, what we teach with, was sufficient but this gives us the upper hand on the way we breach," Partin said. "It's more accessible and easier than having to switch weapons."

Cost for the system is yet to be determined, because it is dependent on production quantities.

The date of the systems testing for the 10th Mtn. Div. hasn't been determined.

Bagram Air Base MWR presents

1530Z at the MWR building: "Piñero." "Piñero" tells the story of the explosive life of a Latino icon, the poet-playwright-actor Miguel Piñero, whose urban poetry is recognized as a pre-cursor to rap and hip-hop.



Tomorrow's movie will be "Charlie's Angels."

Local weather

TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER FORECAST:

	<i>Today</i>	<i>Friday</i>
<u>Bagram:</u>	<i>Scattered showers</i> H: 66F L: 48F	<i>Scattered showers</i> H: 66F L: 46F
<u>Kandahar:</u>	<i>Dusty</i> H: 91F L: 64F	<i>Clear</i> H: 88F L: 63F
<u>Kabul:</u>	<i>Scattered showers</i> H: 66F L: 48F	<i>Scattered showers</i> H: 66F L: 46F
<u>Uzbekistan:</u>	<i>Clear</i> H: 77F L: 40F	<i>Clear</i> H: 75F L: 44F

Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team

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DFAC offers midnight chow option to hungry troops

Story and photo by Spc. Kelly Hunt
4th Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM, Afghanistan – Being in the military during a deployment isn't a nine to five job, that's why personnel at Kellogg Brown and Root have now included a midnight chow option at Dragon DFAC for troops in addition to breakfast, lunch and dinner options already established.

"I don't think anyone should go without a meal," said Jim Pacurari, food service manager, Kellogg Brown and Root, and thanks to the Brown and Root dining facilities being open late, no troop will have to.

Troops all over Bagram are working late, pulling night shifts to provide security and support to the area and until now, late night workers had to make do with snacks or Meal Ready to Eat's to get them through their work day.

"MRE's are not the answer," said Pacurari. "We have everybody working night shifts and they should have an opportunity for a meal."

"Sometimes the mission gets overbearing where you have to miss a meal," said Lewis Baker, food service supervisor. "What we provide at night is something to tide them over till breakfast."

Hot soup, sandwiches, pastries, fruit, hot coffee and assorted beverages are available

from 2330 L to 0100 L daily to troops looking for a meal.

The number of hungry troops making their way to the dining facility for midnight chow continues to grow each night and according to Baker, they see nearly 100 to 120 visitors each night.

It's not just a chance to grab a sandwich and refuel, but the new option gives troops another place to just relax, said Pacurari.

"Where else can they go to relax?" he asked. "MWR has (options) but MWR is still limited so at least now they can go into a peaceful dining facility and have a good meal."

The chow hall is now not only a place to eat, but also a place to get away from the daily grind of the mission, and with football season up and running fans now have place to unwind and keep up with the season.

"Those guys that watch the game, if they want to come and grab a sandwich, they can," said Baker. They watch the game and it's good for them, he said. "That kind of helps the guys out."



Troops enjoy a late night meal and a relaxing atmosphere during midnight chow, now open at Dragon dining facility from 2330 L to 0100 L.

Pacurari understands the stress involved with deployments because he is a former soldier himself. He has taken it upon himself to make the places he can affect places for troops to escape the day.

"Being an ex-soldier, I don't like anything military in the DFAC," he said. "I like a civilian décor, so they can have a relaxed environment." It's to have a place to go and relax, said Baker. "It's not hectic, it's not rushed and there's not so many people in here."

It's a break from the stress of the day, added Baker.

Midnight chow is the beginning of the 24-hour service Bagram's chow halls hope to provide in the future.

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have worked with this army at the lowest levels for the last four months and I am very proud to tell you that this is a fine national army."

Prasek also said the Afghan soldiers were enthusiastic and disciplined and led by professional leaders who focused on training them well.

"Soldiers from all ethnicities are led by leaders from all ethnicities working together to better themselves and their country," he said. "They're learning useful skills and getting an opportunity to further their education."

Brig. Gen. M. Ibrahim Ahmedzai, the Kabul Recruiting commander, was glad that he received the opportunity to work with Americans. "I believe the project is a success. I like working with Americans and want to continue working with them until everything is okay in

Afghanistan regarding the al Qaeda," he said.

The location of the recruiting station was a crucial element in beginning and completing this project.

"We were looking for a busy area to build a recruiting station

and we looked over at the Plaza Circle and felt this place had potential. We had a gut feeling about it and it worked," said Capt. Kenneth Welch, project engineer and manager for OMC-A.

Welch also said he thought the project was a personal success and looked forward to future projects. "I think I'm making a difference and I like what I'm doing. I can see a tangible result."

The future of the ANA relies not only on the recruitment site being a success, but also on organization, training and advertisement.

"I think this recruiting station is one of the best ideas, because today you have to convince and talk to people to sell an idea," said Maj. Gen. Sher M. Karmi, the deputy chief of staff for the Ministry of Defense.

Karmi serves as an advisory member of the central commission responsible for the training and organization of the ANA. He has received extensive training in the United States including Infantry, Ranger, Special Forces, Airborne and maintenance schools.

The people of Kabul, as well as all of Afghanistan, desire peace, security and stability for their country, said Karmi. Establishing an ANA recruiting station in Kabul is a step toward that goal, he added.



Coalition Sports Zone

(Compiled from ESPN.com)

Let the 'James' begin, Cavaliers win exhibition opener Tuesday

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. — LeBron James showed he can run



LeBron James showed he can do more than just dunk in Tuesday's exhibition opener.

with the big boys. He can make behind-the-back passes, ferocious dunks and grab monster rebounds against them, too.

In his first NBA exhibition game, James ran the show.

Just as he has always done.

Cleveland's rookie played like a seasoned veteran Tuesday night, showcasing a dazzling range of skills while leading the Cavaliers to a 100-96 victory over the

Detroit Pistons.

"I'm back to winning again," he said.

For one game — James' first against a legitimate pro team — the ceaseless hype must be believed.

This wasn't a Summer League with a roster full of retreads and rookies he was facing. These were the Pistons, who had the Eastern Conference's best record last season.

James might never be able to match the ridiculous expectations being placed upon him, but with eight points, seven assists, three rebounds and two blocked in 26 minutes, the 18-year-old star convinced more than 20,000 fans, over 100 credentialed media members and the Pistons that he's for real.

"His feel for the game is unbelievable," Pistons guard Richard Hamilton said. "He knows how to play the game, even at 18."

During an extended stretch in the third quarter, James was the most active player on the floor.

"He took over when he had to," Cavaliers coach Paul Silas said.

James opened the second half by hitting an open jumper, and then made two gorgeous passes on the break that his teammates were unable to convert into baskets.

Moments later, he took a crisp crosscourt feed from Darius Miles, but instead of catching it, he made a no-look touch pass to Ricky Davis for an easy basket.

"That's a gift," said Cavaliers general manager Jim Paxson. "That's Magic [Johnson] and [Larry] Bird being able to recognize that."

Suns extend Marbury's contract through 2009 making guard richest Arizona athlete

PHOENIX — The Phoenix Suns extended Stephon Marbury's contract for four years Tuesday, giving the All-Star point guard the richest deal ever offered to a professional athlete in Arizona and locking up his services through 2008-09.



Stephon Marbury

Marbury had two years to go on a \$70.9 million, six-year contract he signed with the New Jersey Nets in 1999. It will pay him \$13.5 million this season and \$14.6 million in 2004-05.

The value of the four extension years will vary from \$76 million to \$80 million, depending on how the NBA adjusts the salary cap.

The announcement was made before the Suns' exhibition opener against the Nets, who traded Marbury for Jason Kidd on July 18, 2001.

The trade, which involved other players, was ridiculed as one-sided the first season, with Kidd carrying the Nets to the playoffs while the Suns skidded to their worst record in 14 years (36-46) and missed the playoffs.

During that offseason, Marbury was arrested for drunken driving, hitting bottom when he had to serve jail time before reporting for the 2002 training camp. He also had surgery on both ankles, and never had a pain-free game, but persevered to one of his best seasons.

Arrington promises to 'Skin' Bucs Sapp

ASHBURN, Va. — Washington Redskins linebacker LaVar Arrington looked directly into the TV camera and delivered a sharp message to Warren Sapp.



LaVar Arrington

"Sapp," Arrington said, "I'm going to get you."

Much like the contrived trash talk engendered by broadcast reporters before events like the Super Bowl, the Redskins linebacker challenged the Pro Bowl defensive tackle Wednesday as the Redskins prepared for Sunday's game against Sapp's Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

Arrington said he'll take issue if Sapp comes on Washington's side of the field during pregame stretching, as Sapp has been known to do. Such pregame altercations have led the NFL to order officials to take the field 45 minutes before kickoff.

"I'm expecting for Warren Sapp to cause me to grab him — because he's going to try to run through our lineup in pregame," Arrington said. "You never let a man run through your stretching line. If a team crosses your 50-yard line while you're stretching, there's a problem... that's a blatant show of disrespect."

Afghanistan Hot Topics



(Compiled by CJTF-180 Public Affairs)

Pakistan forces swoop on tribe sheltering al Qaeda

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (*Reuters*) - Pakistani forces detained 32 people on Wednesday in a crackdown on a tribe accused of sheltering Taliban and al Qaeda sympathizers, officials said.

Last week, the Pakistani military arrested 18 al Qaeda and Taliban suspects and killed eight others after swooping on a hideout near the Afghan border town of Angor Adda in the South Waziristan tribal area.

Authorities are looking for three men they suspect of helping the al Qaeda cell, and gave leaders of the small Zalikhel-Qarikhel tribe until Tuesday night to hand them over.

When the deadline passed, paramilitary forces detained 32 members of the tribe, seized nearly 20 vehicles and sealed their shops to pressure them to give up the three suspects, Azam Khan, administrator of the area, told *Reuters*.

In talks with a tribal jirga (council) on Wednesday he assured locals the suspects would not be handed over to the Americans and would be dealt with under Pakistani law inside the country. Talks were expected to continue on Thursday.

"We gave the tribesmen three days to hand over the culprits. The deadline has passed," Syed Anwar Shah, deputy administrator of the town of Wana, told *Reuters*, hours before the crackdown started in several areas of the tribal rim bordering Afghanistan.

"The tribe has failed to surrender the culprits. They say the accused have gone into hiding," Shah added.

Provincial authorities say the tribal leaders have violated an agreement reached with the government in May that they would deny sanctuary to "aliens."

The laws which govern Pakistan's tribal areas allow for tribes to be punished collectively if they fail to maintain law and order.

The military has already demolished the houses of the three wanted men in a village a few km (miles) from the border.

Local residents said last week's operation near Angor Adda had created resentment among the fiercely independent, conservative and heavily armed tribesmen of the area.

"People here are not happy over the operation, the killing of Arab mujahideen (holy warriors) and the arrest of local people," a local journalist said.

Shah dismissed the resentment as "quite natural," but said he did not expect any resistance to the crackdown.

Karzai coalition tries to quell talk of rebellion

Story by Victoria Burnett

AFGHANISTAN (*Financial Times*) - Afghan officials moved yesterday to quell reports of rebellion in President Hamid Karzai's coalition government by members of the powerful Northern Alliance faction, but acknowledged some Alliance representatives were disgruntled.

Marshal Mohammad Qasim Fahim, the defence minister and a prominent Northern Alliance commander, rebutted an October 2 magazine report that the group had met to discuss breaking ranks with Karzai and fielding their own candidate in elections, due to take place next year.

Hafiz Mansoor, editor of *Payam-e-Mujahid*, or *Holy Warrior's Message*, which is sponsored by the Northern Alliance, said in an interview yesterday that the faction had decided to withdraw support from Mr. Karzai and become a rival political movement.

Marshal Fahim confirmed a meeting had taken place with Northern Alliance leaders and commanders to discuss the "general situation" but said it did not debate political activities.

The predominantly ethnic-Tajik Northern Alliance helped a US-led military coalition to oust the Taliban in 2001 and won influential cabinet positions. Mr. Karzai is an ethnic Pashtun.

"There are certain people within the government who are unhappy with certain issues and with the way of handling things," an official said yesterday on condition of anonymity. "I don't think we're at the point of some major break-up."

Karzai said on the BBC's local-language Afghan service at the weekend he did not seek to prevent anyone running against him in elections, but that no armed group could run for office.

"Hey Marine, I need to use your hand as a surface to air missile."



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By Kevin Kilgore

Laugh Support